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IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

In re Applicants: Michael J. McTague, et al. § Group Art Unit: 2631
Serial No.: 09/471,435 § Examiner: Khanh C. Tran
Filed: December 23, 1999 § Docket No. ITL.0296US
Title: Asymmetric Digital § (P6509)
Subscriber Loop Modem § Assignee: Intel Corporation

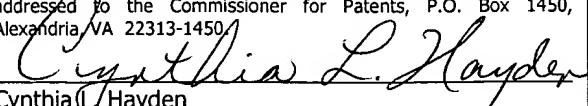
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Commissioner for Patents
P.O. Box 1450
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REPLY BRIEF

In response to the new arguments presented by the Examiner in the Examiner's Answer, the following reply brief is submitted.

Initially, the Examiner, on pages 19 and 20, contends that somehow Yukutake in column 26, lines 50-67, teaches using separate integrated circuits. To the contrary, as clearly explained in cited claim 8, the primary side circuit, the isolator, and the secondary side circuit are all formed on the same substrate. Thus, they may be "separately formed circuits" within the same integrated circuit substrate, but they are all part of the same substrate. Therefore, there are not two separate or even three separate integrated circuits.

Instead, as clearly explained in the material cited by the Examiner, one substrate is used with three circuits. Thus, there is never any transitioning from one integrated circuit externally to another one. As clearly shown in Figure 1, the element 500 is one integrated circuit. And, as

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Cynthia L. Hayden

shown in Figure 21, there are only pins or outputs at 26 and 36. Thus, this similarly shows one integrated circuit.

While confusing language may be used in the left column of column 25, the sum total of all the information makes it clear beyond reasonable dispute that all three circuits are formed on the same substrate and, thus, would be conventionally called one integrated circuit. This is shown by the Examiner's reliance on claim 8. It is further substantiated by Figure 1 and the rest of the disclosure which clearly shows one integrated circuit.

Certainly, if one were going to transition from one integrated circuit to another, conventionally no such isolator would be needed because the isolation would be provided by the separate integrated circuits. Thus, for all these reasons, the contention that somehow Yukutake teaches three separate integrated circuits, never before raised during prosecution, should be rebuffed at this late date.

Respectfully submitted,

Date: November 30, 2005



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